United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Michigan Field Office
Cooperating with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service

Michigan Crop Weather

MI-CW1810 May 3, 2010

Warm with Varied Precipitation

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 2, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.95 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula to 3.84 inches in the southeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees above normal in the southeastern Lower Peninsula to 6 degrees above normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. There were extended periods of warm temperatures followed by some extremely cold nights that damaged some fruit in southwest Michigan. Farmers in the central region were cautious of planting a lot of corn due to cool soil temperatures and fear of frost. Farmers were able to perform fieldwork this past week where conditions allowed. Light and variable rains were a welcome relief over the weekend where soils were drying. A grower in the central part of the state reported, "Recent rains have resulted in improvement of both wheat and oats." "Dry weather is a concern, although rains over the weekend helped," a reporter in the southwest stated. Field crop planting was well ahead of normal.

Field Crops

Across the State, cool soils hindered development of some crops, while others, like alfalfa benefitted from the cool weather. Rains last week were welcomed; however, more was needed. **Wheat** progressed and was in Feekes growing stages 4 to 6. However, some fields were plowed up due to poor stands. At this point, disease pressure was limited. **Alfalfa** was growing well and ranged from 8-12 inches tall. Several growers stated that development of wheat and alfalfa was "about 10 days ahead of normal." **Oats** and **barley** were planted and was emerging. **Pasture** growing slowly. **Corn** and **soybeans** planting continued, but was halted due to rains last week. Seed corn fields were being prepped for planting in the coming weeks. Corn and soybean planting progress was the highest on record. **Sugarbeet** planting was complete and all have emerged. However, there were some fields to be replanted due to several problems—including crusting, poor emergence, frost damage, and seedling disease. Flea beetle presence was large.

Fruit

Growing degree days were still about 8 to 15 days ahead of normal around the state. The full extent of freeze damage has yet to be determined. **Apples** ranged from pink to late pink in the west central to full bloom with early varieties at petal fall in the southwest. Spotted tentiform leafminer was flying, and the weekend rain was an apple scab infection event. **Peaches** were in full bloom in the west central and were in the shuck in the southwest. European **plums** were at full bloom in the west central and northwest and in the shuck in the southwest. **Strawberries** were at trusses emerging from the crown to trusses out of the crown across the southern part of the state. **Sweet cherries** were out of full bloom in the Grand Rapids area to in the shuck, with early varieties at shuck split in the southwest. **Tart cherries** were at 30 to 80 percent bloom in the west central and were past full bloom to shuck in the southwest. **Pears** were at 40 to 60 percent open blossoms in the west central to petal fall in the southwest. **Blueberries** were at early to late pink to early bloom stages in the Grand Rapids area and in pink bud to bloom in the southwest. There has been a fair amount of cold damage in the southeast. **Grapes** were at early bud swell in the northwest; and shoots were about an inch to two inches and flowers open in the southwest.

Vegetables

Growers continued to lay black plastic and plant some early season crops. Recent rains aided growers in the southwest in shaping beds and laying plastic. **Onion**, **carrot**, **sweet corn**, **celery**, **lettuce**, **beets**, **parsley**, **peas**, and **radish** seeding or transplanting continued. Irrigation was being widely used on carrots. Sweet corn, in the southeast, was about two to three leaf stages. **Cabbage** has been established for several weeks. Planting of **tomatoes** and **cucumbers** continued under protective tunnels. Overwintered **spinach** did well. Cutting and shipping of hothouse **rhubarb** continued. **Potatoes** were emerging in early planted fields. **Asparagus** was emerging and harvest was underway. Last week's frost damaged about half of the emerged spears in the Oceana area. Cole crops were planted. **English peas**, in the southwest, were emerged but not flowering.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/02/10

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Topsoil	4	16	68	12
Subsoil	5	19	69	7

Crop condition for week ending 05/02/10

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Oats	1	9	27	50	13
Pasture	2	8	34	41	15
Winter Wheat	1	3	18	54	24

Crop progress for week ending 05/02/10

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Barley, planted	74	53	31	40
Barley, emerged	42	9	13	13
Corn, planted	53	32	5	27
Corn, emerged	3	1	0	1
Oats, planted	90	83	61	72
Oats, emerged	64	46	22	31
Soybeans, planted	18	0	1	7
Soybeans, emerged	2	0	NA	NA
Sugarbeets, planted	100	100	87	90

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Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/02/10 [1]

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days [2]			Precipitation					
											Normal	
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2010	2009	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	71	24		170	75		0.67	0.69	1.00	1.11		
Marquette	72	23		160	62		0.67	0.69	1.00	1.11		
Stephenson	75	22		206	108		0.20	0.20	0.81	0.81		
Western UP	77	18	5	174	71	86	0.72	0.73	1.04	1.16	2.58	3.37
Cornell	71	25		177	88		0.05	0.05	0.43	0.43		
Sault St Marie	74	30		162	55		0.05	0.05	0.75	1.21		
Eastern UP	74	22	6	153	59	44	0.04	0.07	0.76	0.95	2.69	3.01
Beulah	82	29		213	124		0.88	2.16	3.82	4.07		
Lake City	79	26		202	120		1.49	1.94	3.83	4.14		
Old Mission	85	28		215	89		0.49	0.67	2.84	3.08		
Pellston	75	20		207	90		0.14	0.14	0.98	1.18		
Northwest	85	20	5	201	101	108	0.67	1.02	2.71	2.96	2.92	2.61
Alpena	82	25		188	94		0.41	0.41	2.17	2.39		
Houghton Lake	81	25		219	110		0.43	0.76	2.15	2.42		
Rogers City	82	29		175	98		0.31	0.31	2.09	2.30		
Northeast	82	25	6	205	102	98	0.45	0.57	2.17	2.41	2.79	2.76
Fremont	78	26		238	135		0.53	0.86	2.17	2.59		
Hart	78	25		214	120		0.17	0.38	2.29	2.72		
Muskegon	78	30		236	144		0.71	0.82	2.23	2.76		
West Central	78	25	5	226	135	132	0.47	0.74	2.33	2.76	3.36	2.67
Alma	80	32		236	135		0.49	2.09	3.93	4.26		
Big Rapids	81	28		242	137		0.63	1.30	3.07	3.35		
Central	81	28	4	240	134	147	0.56	1.47	2.95	3.20	3.35	2.79
Bad Axe	82	31		229	122		0.25	0.73	1.58	1.67		
Pigeon	84	31		231	112		0.32	0.84	2.01	2.03		
Saginaw	82	34		257	133		0.30	1.14	2.20	2.46		
Standish	82	27		231	121		0.91	1.43	2.94	3.14		
East Central	84	27	4	224	121	140	0.45	1.06	2.34	2.70	2.76	2.63
Fennville	79	27		269	153		1.05	1.25	2.31	2.81		
Grand Rapids	81	34		294	167		0.54	0.98	3.77	4.33		
Holland	81	31		285	165		0.71	0.86	2.64	3.39		
South Bend, IN	78	30		304	200		1.15	2.34	2.98	3.50		
Watervliet	79	31		283	163		0.69	1.17	2.70	3.16		
Southwest	81	26	4	280	171	167	0.75	1.14	2.63	3.19	3.59	3.01
Belding	79	28		253	136		1.30	1.65	3.47	3.84		
Coldwater	79	31		294	190		1.21	2.79	3.31	3.33		
Lansing	80	30		284	156		0.58	0.70	2.81	3.02		
South Central	81	27	4	272	164	168	0.63	1.28	2.86	3.11	3.32	2.92
Detroit	83	36		308	211		0.96	1.83	3.17	3.21		
Flint	80	27		278	174		0.64	1.07	3.81	3.96		
Romeo	81	34		252	166		3.19	3.82	5.21	5.34		
Tipton	79	29		281	190		1.22	3.00	3.84	3.84		
Toledo, OH	82	32		310	213		0.86	2.95	5.54	5.55		
Southeast	83	26	4	280	191	155	1.35	2.36	3.76	3.84	3.33	2.85

[1] Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

[2] Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.